

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

MODIFICATION OF MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE FOR  
COUNTRY PRICE LISTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL

Docket No.  
MC2016-172

**NOTICE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OF  
MINOR CLASSIFICATION CHANGE**  
(July 27, 2016)

Pursuant to 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90,<sup>1</sup> the United States Postal Service (Postal Service) hereby gives notice of a minor change in classification governing the Country Price Lists for International Mail in Part D of the Mail Classification Schedule (MCS). The Postal Service hereby submits to the Commission the attached conforming change, in legislative format, to the applicable sections of Part D of the MCS (included with this Notice as Attachment 1). This change is intended to go into effect on August 28, 2016.<sup>2</sup> The Governor authorized this change on June 21, 2016, in Governors' Decision No. 16-4 (a copy of which is included with this Notice as Attachment 2).

This minor classification change assigns country groups for Priority Mail Express International (PMEI) service to Cuba, because the Postal Service plans to introduce outbound PMEI service to Cuba. The Postal Service already offers Priority Mail International (PMI) service to Cuba, and now it plans to introduce Priority Mail Express International service as well to give customers in the United States an expedited

<sup>1</sup> See Docket No. RM2015-6, Order No. 2543, Order Adopting Final Rules on Changes and Corrections to the Mail Classification Schedule, June 16, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> The Postal Service expects to enter into an EMS operational agreement with the designated postal operator of Cuba prior to the planned effective date of the service (August 28, 2016) in order to exchange expedited shipments. When that happens, the Postal Service will file the operational agreement with the Commission pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 407(d)(2). If the operational agreement has not been fully executed by August 28, then the Postal Service will suspend the initial implementation of the service.

delivery option. The Postal Service is assigning Country Group 9 to Cuba for (variable weight) PMEI and Country Group 8 to Cuba for PMEI Flat Rate Envelope.

This Notice satisfies the requirements set forth in 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90. First, in accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90(a), the change described should result in the MCS more accurately representing the Postal Service's current offerings. Second, in accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90(b), the Postal Service is filing this Notice no later than 15 days prior to the intended effective date of August 28, 2016, for the proposed change to the MCS. Third, in accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90(c)(1), this is a minor classification change in that it merely assigns country groups for the existing PMEI service for a new country destination. This minor classification does not constitute a material change, for purposes of 39 C.F.R. § 3020.80, to the product descriptions of the product that is affected. Indeed, the product descriptions (and the country group rates) are not being changed at all.

In the past, the Commission has approved multiple other changes affecting country group assignments as minor classification changes.<sup>3</sup> In addition, this change is like another that the Commission determined was also a minor change appropriate for approval under Rule 3020.90. In 2009, the Commission granted a motion for reconsideration and approved the extension of flat rate Letter Post service to three new destinations that already accepted other Letter Post options.<sup>4</sup> In that matter, the Commission concluded that it was reasonable to treat the change as minor, because

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<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Docket No. MC2016-10, Order No. 2808, Order Approving Minor Classification Changes, November 9, 2015 (Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba; Curacao; Sint Maarten); Docket No. MC2012-17, Order No. 1351, Order Approving Minor Classification Change Concerning Timor-Leste, May 23, 2012 (Timor-Leste); Docket No. MC2011-4, Order No. 594, Order Concerning Classification Changes, November 22, 2010 (Israel; Montenegro); Docket No. MC2010-8, Order No. 343, Order Accepting Classification Changes for Market Dominant Products, November 20, 2009 (Kosovo).

<sup>4</sup> See Docket No. MC2009-16, Order No. 205, Order Granting Reconsideration of Order No. 183, April 22, 2009.

“[n]o existing rates or service attributes were altered.”<sup>5</sup> Because the same is true for the pending expansion of the existing PMEI service to Cuba, the Commission should evaluate this change consistently to reach the same conclusion.

In accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90(c)(2), this minor classification change is consistent with applicable provisions of Title 39. This change is not inconsistent with Section 3642, because no product is being added or removed from a product list, and no product is being transferred between the market-dominant and competitive products lists. As noted, no country group rates are changing. Under Title 39, this change is consistent with the general policy and duties of the Postal Service to provide prompt and efficient postal services. 39 U.S.C. §§ 101(a), 403(a). Likewise, it is consistent with the policy of the United States to promote and encourage efficient international postal and other delivery services, including through operational contracts related to providing international postal and delivery services that the Postal Service deems appropriate. 39 U.S.C. § 407(a)(1), (a)(4), (d).

Finally, the submission of Attachment 1 satisfies 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90(c)(3). The Postal Service believes that the change should be incorporated by the Commission into the MCS. The Postal Service respectfully requests that the Commission approve this change pursuant to 39 C.F.R. § 3020.92(b) within 15 days of the filing of this Notice (i.e., by August 11, 2016), which should give the Postal Service adequate time to prepare to offer the service on the planned effective date of August 28, 2016.

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 4.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
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July 27, 2016

## **PART D**

### **COUNTRY PRICE LISTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL**

**4000 COUNTRY PRICE LISTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL**

Country	Market Dominant  SPFCMI <sup>1</sup>	Competitive						
		FCPIS <sup>2</sup>	International Expedited Services			PMI <sup>5</sup>	PMI Flat Rate Enve- lopes and Boxes <sup>5</sup>	IPA & ISAL <sup>6</sup>
			GXG <sup>3</sup>	PMEI <sup>4</sup>	PMEI Flat Rate Enve- lope <sup>4</sup>			

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Cuba	9	9	-	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	9	8	17
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**DECISION OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE CONCERNING  
ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTRY GROUPS IN THE MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE  
(GOVERNORS' DECISION NO. 16-4)**

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June 21, 2016

**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION AND JUSTIFICATION**

The Postal Service and the postal operator of Cuba intend to exchange expedited shipments known as EMS, which is branded as Priority Mail Express International (PMEI) service for U.S. origin shipments. Pursuant to section 404(b) and Chapter 36 of Title 39, United States Code, the Governors hereby assign country price groups in the Mail Classification Schedule for PMEI destined to Cuba.

**ORDER**

The classification changes as set forth herein shall be effective on August 28, 2016. I also direct Management to file with the Postal Regulatory Commission appropriate notice of this change.

By The Governors:



James H. Bilbray  
Chairman, Temporary Emergency Committee of the Board of Governors

**ATTACHMENT TO GOVERNORS' DECISION NO. 16-4**

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**MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE**

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**PART D**

**COUNTRY PRICE LISTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL**

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**ATTACHMENT TO GOVERNORS' DECISION NO. 16-4**

**4000 COUNTRY PRICE LISTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL**

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